



## COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

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### *Objective*

The Procurement Policy of the Cochin University of Science and Technology is the University's overarching policy for the procurement of goods and services, including construction. Its intent is to deliver excellence in procurement outcomes in addition to ensuring compliance with the Procurement Policy in vogue.

### *Scope*

This policy applies to all staff and students. This policy must be read in adhered to while making procurements along with other procurement procedures.

### *Policy*

The following principles apply in relation to all University procurement activities.

1. The current CUSAT sustainable procurement policy as updated from time to time, will be applied to all procurement instances with a focus on the following principles:
  - Environmental considerations: Ensuring that the goods and services purchased have minimal negative impacts on the environment. This may involve favouring products with eco-labels, lower carbon footprints, or reduced resource consumption.
  - Social responsibility: Considering the social aspects of procurement, such as fair labour practices, human rights, and working conditions. This may include giving preference to suppliers that provide fair wages, safe working conditions, and non-discriminatory practices.



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- **Economic sustainability:** Promoting economic sustainability by supporting local and diverse suppliers, encouraging fair competition, and considering the life-cycle cost of products, rather than solely focusing on the upfront cost.
  - **Supplier engagement:** Collaborating with suppliers to encourage sustainability practices in their operations and promoting the adoption of sustainable policies throughout the supply chain.
  - **Measurement and reporting:** Setting specific sustainability performance metrics and tracking progress towards sustainability goals. This may involve regular reporting on key performance indicators to ensure accountability and transparency.
  - **Compliance and certifications:** Ensuring that suppliers adhere to relevant environmental, social, and ethical standards. Encouraging suppliers to obtain certifications like ISO 14001 (environmental management) or Fair-Trade certification.
  - **Innovation and research:** Encouraging innovation and the development of sustainable products and services within the procurement process.
  - **Education and awareness:** Educating employees, suppliers, and stakeholders about the importance of sustainable procurement and promoting awareness of sustainable options.
2. The University will promote supplier diversity opportunities to increase the number of MSMEs and start-ups within the supply chain.
  3. All procurement activities will be undertaken in accordance with established principles, probity and governance standards as provided in the CUSAT Procurement Policy.
  4. University's procurement initiatives will substantially align with ESG compliant suppliers envisaging appropriate planning and commitment from stakeholders.
  5. A procurement plan will be maintained, reviewed, updated and approved prior to the commencement of each financial year and demonstrate flexibility and responsiveness to the ever-changing needs of the University.



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6. Procurement measures will be developed, introduced and regularly reviewed for the purpose of assessing and reporting the University's procurement performance and achieving positive fiscal outcomes.
7. Detailed procurement plans (stating the function and performance requirements of the goods/services to be procured) will be prepared for purchases of higher value or high business risk.